

IN THE DRAWING

Kindly amend Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8(A) as shown in the attached Replacement Sheets.

REMARKS

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawing was objected to because Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 8(A) were not labeled Prior Art, and because empty boxes in several figures were not labeled. In response, Replacement Sheets are provided herewith in which the appropriate figures are labeled as Prior Art, and in which the empty boxes are appropriately labeled to enhance circuit readability and component recognition. It is respectfully requested that the proposed amendments to the drawing be approved and entered.

The abstract was objected to because it does not commence on a separate sheet as required. In response, a new abstract is provided herewith on a separate sheet.

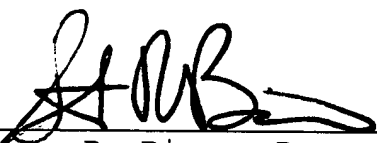
On the merits, claims 11-12 and 14-15 were deemed to contain allowable subject matter, while claims 1-10 and 13 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being unpatentable over the acknowledged prior art, for the reasons of record. In response, claim 1 is herewith amended to more specifically and precisely recite the novel features of the instant invention, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 1, as herewith amended, and the remaining claims depending therefrom, are now clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited art. Accordingly, the allowable claims have not been placed in independent form at the present time, pending a

final determination of the patentability of independent claim 1.

On the merits, it was suggested in the Action that the prior recitation of a variable time required for the ramp voltage to reach the voltage level supplied by the reference source is anticipated by the prior art, because the prior art time constant is in fact not always constant in view of circuit variations and the like. In response, claim 1 is herewith amended in order to more specifically and precisely recite that the time taken for the ramp voltage to reach the specified level is not nearly variable, in the sense that it may change, but more specifically is deliberately adjusted as a function of a control signal received at a control input of the circuit. It is respectfully submitted that this more specific and precise recitation of a deliberate adjustment as a function of a specific signal is clearly distinguishable over a time which is nominally constant which may vary due to such factors as operating outside a given operating range. Furthermore, the fact that the recited time period may vary if one varies a current or voltage source value does not render claim 1 as herewith amended anticipated, because claim 1 presently recites that a deliberate adjustment is made as a function of a specific control signal in order to implement the change in time taken for the ramp voltage to reach the voltage level supplied by the reference source.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the abstract and drawing are now in proper form, and that independent claim 1, as herewith amended, and the remaining claims depending therefrom, are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied art. Accordingly, allowance of the instant application is respectfully submitted to be justified at the present time, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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